

Between 1938 and 1971, approximately 5 million pregnant American women took the drug diethylstilbestrol, or DES, in the belief it would prevent miscarriage. Tragically, DES failed to impact miscarriage rates and instead caused severe health consequences for many of the children exposed in utero.

DES is now known to damage the reproductive systems of those exposed in utero and to increase the risk for cancer, infertility, and a wide range of other serious reproductive tract disorders. These include a fivefold increased risk of ectopic pregnancy for DES daughters and a threefold increased risk for miscarriage and preterm labor. One in one thousand DES daughters will develop clear cell cancer of the vagina or cervix. If diagnosed early, survival rates for this cancer are around 80 percent. However, there is still no effective treatment for recurrence of this cancer.

DES sons experience adverse health consequences as well, including an increased incidence of undescended testicles and fertility problems. Studies also indicate a higher incidence of breast cancer among mothers who took DES during pregnancy.

In the 102d Congress, Senator TOM HARKIN and I sponsored the DES Education and Research Amendments of 1992. This legislation, signed into law by President Bush, established the first Federal DES research and education efforts. Since that time, DES research has yielded important insights into the impact of synthetic estrogens on the human body. The associated education program has helped to identify people who did not previously know they were exposed to DES and educate them about their special health needs.

Our understanding of DES is still evolving and incomplete. Two of the most pressing research concerns at present are whether estrogen replacement therapy is advisable for DES-exposed women and whether DES may have a genetic impact on the third generation—the children of parents exposed to DES in utero. In addition, many thousands of affected Americans and their health professionals do not have adequate information about steps they should take to deal with the effects of DES.

The DES Education and Research Amendments of 1997 would extend authorization for DES research at the National Institutes of Health. It would also instruct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national DES education program, based on the pilot projects conducted pursuant to the 1992 law.

The Federal commitment to DES education and research must continue. I urge my colleagues to support the DES Education and Research Amendments of 1997.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GUAM'S CORAL REEFS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that last month the House adopted House Concurrent Resolution 8, a resolution declaring the importance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems. On Guam, and throughout the Western Pacific, the importance of coral reefs is woven

into almost every aspect of our lives. Healthy coral reefs are vital to our economy which is largely driven by our tourist industry, but they are also an important part of our island culture. Our reefs also serve as natural protection to our coastline from high waves, storm surges, and coastal erosion especially during typhoons and tsunamis. As is the case with most of the coral reef ecosystems in the world, Guam reefs are being threatened by a variety of enemies. Guam's reefs are being especially threatened by sewage outfalls, runoff, sediment, silt, and environmental stress from an increasing number of visitors.

Governor Gutierrez recently took action to preserve and protect this fragile ecosystem so central to both our culture and economy through the enactment of the Guam Coral Reef Initiative and signing the island's first marine life restoration bill passed by the Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature. This new law will also have a significant impact on the life of our coral reef by setting aside designated reef preserves to allow various marine species to repopulate. Limits on the harvesting of fish and restrictions on fishing methods will also create a more healthy environment in which our reef can thrive.

The Guam Coral Reef Initiative ordered by the Governor is a comprehensive conservation and management plan for Guam's coral reef ecosystem including our mangroves and seagrass beds. This initiative seeks to bring together all of the stakeholders in Guam's coral reefs to coordinate solutions which take into account the wide variety of direct and indirect threats to our reefs. Education will also be a strong component of this initiative. Residents and especially visitors need to be educated about the importance of the reefs as well as how to take proper care of this fragile ecosystem.

In addition to establishing a process to improve the health of Guam's coral reefs, this initiative includes a monitoring and research element. In fact, the University of Guam's Marine Lab and the Guam Department of Agriculture held training sessions last week to teach the public how to help conduct reef surveys. These surveys will serve as a baseline from which researchers can compare future reef health.

The people of Guam have traditionally been exceptional stewards of our environment. These two actions again prove that the people of Guam, not the Federal Government, are the best stewards of our environment. Through this effort, Guam continues to stand as an example of local solutions to local problems.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MENORAH HOUSING FOUNDATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the excellent work of the Menorah Housing Foundation and to congratulate them for 20 years of superior service to our senior community.

The Menorah Housing Foundation is a management company subsidized by the Housing and Urban Development program. Menorah manages 613 units in nine locations around

the Los Angeles area and has received funding for four more projects because of its success in improving the quality of life for thousands of individuals.

Those at the Menorah Foundation go beyond the call of duty in order to provide more than just safe, sanitary and affordable housing. The staff involves its residents in a vast array of social, recreational and educational activities, particularly reaching out to minorities. The foundation also cooperates with outreach programs including those of the Jewish Family Service and other Federal programs which provide nutritional assistance. In order to truly serve the residents each worker makes personal contact with each and every person in order to ensure that all tenants maintain the highest quality of life possible.

The success of the Menorah Housing Foundation is due largely in part to the leadership of Shirley Srery and her staff. I join the Los Angeles Community in recognizing the Menorah Housing Foundation for providing quality care combined with compassion and commitment to our senior community. The Menorah Housing Foundation stands as a model for all housing programs around the Nation.

CNA CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 100th anniversary of CNA, the third largest property/casualty insurer in the United States and the leading provider of commercial insurance.

Founded in Detroit by Collins Hubbard with 15 employees, CNA moved to Chicago in 1900. It employs over 6,000 people in Illinois—many of whom reside in my congressional district—and 20,000 throughout the country.

During its 100 years of providing security to Americans, CNA has been a pioneer in developing insurance products to respond to rapidly changing lifestyles in the 20th century.

Its first product, accident and health insurance, was offered at a time when most insurance companies provided only coverage for accidents. Responding to the needs of farmers as agricultural production grew, CNA developed special accident and health insurance. In 1910 CNA moved into auto insurance and burglary insurance. The next year life insurance was added to CNA's products. During World War I, as factories dramatically increased output to meet war needs, CNA offered workers' compensation coverage.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD a more complete history of CNA which was prepared by the company in anticipation of this important anniversary. I congratulate CNA for its remarkable achievements and for its service to all Americans:

A TRIBUTE TO CNA IN CELEBRATION OF ITS CENTENNIAL, CNA STANDS FOR COMMITMENT, 1897-1997

INTRODUCTION

CNA, one of the country's largest commercial insurance groups, is celebrating one hundred years of commitment and service to the American people both at home and